

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

[(a)] (b) an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations;

[(b)] (c) a video mosaic generator in communication with the AV path[, for combining] to combine the captured video images of a first and a second participant into a mosaic image; and

[(c)] (d) a distributed video mosaic generator, [in communication with the AV path, for combining] logically separate from the video mosaic generator and configured to receive and combine at least a portion of the mosaic image with a captured video image of a third participant into a distributed mosaic image for reproduction at at least one work station.

3. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising:

(a) a close-up selector [for] responsive to a participant input to select[ing] one participant's image [reproduced] in [the] a reproduced distributed mosaic image and [replacing] to replace the reproduced distributed mosaic image with the selected image.

4. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising:

(a) at least a first and a second video mosaic generator [for respectively combining] configured to combine the captured images of a plurality of participants into respective first and second mosaic images both for reproduction at the workstations of at least one of the participants.

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

5. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising:
- (a) a participant display selector [for] responsive to a participant input to select[ing] which of the participants are to have their corresponding captured video image displayed in the mosaic image.

- 10 4
6. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 5, wherein the participant display selector can select[s] the participants automatically.

- Sub 2
7. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of Claim 5, wherein the [video mosaic generator] system is operable to generate a distributed video mosaic of fewer participants than the number of actual participants and the participant display selector is operable to select which of the actual participants will have a corresponding video image displayed.

8. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising:
- (a) at least one codec [for] configured to compress[ing] the mosaic image and the captured image of the third participant, and wherein the [means for combining] distributed video mosaic generator can combine the compressed mosaic image and the compressed image of the third participant.

9. (Once Amended) A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants [having] the system comprising:

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

(a) a workstation[s with] associated with each of at least two participants and having a monitor[s for displaying visual images,] and [with associated] AV capture and reproduction capabilities [for capturing and reproducing] to capture and reproduce video images and spoken audio of the participants[, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising:]

[(a)] (b) an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations;

C' [(b)] (c) a video mosaic generator in communication with the AV path [for combining] to combine the captured video images of a first, second and third [of the] participant[s] into a mosaic image for reproduction at the workstation[s] of at least the first[, second and third] participant[s]; and

[(c)] (d) an audio summer in communication with the AV path[, for receiving the] to receive captured audio of the first, second and third participants and to combine [combining] the received audio of only the second and third participants into an audio sum for reproduction at the workstation of the first participant.

10. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 9, further comprising:

(a) a close-up selector [for] responsive to a participant input to select[ing] one participant's image [reproduced] in [the] a reproduced mosaic image [and replacing] to replace the mosaic image with the selected image.

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

(once Amended)

11. The teleconferencing system of claim 10, further comprising:

(a) at least a first and a second video mosaic generator [for respectively combining] configured to combine the captured images of a plurality of participants into respective first and second mosaic images; and

(b) an image synchronizer[ation means for] responsive to information relating to the mosaic images to synchronize[ing] the mosaic images generated by the video mosaic generators such that [a plurality of] the first and second mosaic images can be reproduced together at the workstation[s] of at least one [of the] participant[s].

8 (once amended)

12. The teleconferencing system of claim 11, further comprising:

(a) a participant display selector [for selecting] configured to select which of the participants are to have their corresponding captured video image displayed in [the] a mosaic image.

~~13. The teleconferencing system of claim 12, wherein the participant display selector selects the participants automatically.~~

14. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of Claim 12, wherein the video mosaic generator is operable to generate a video mosaic of fewer participants than the number of actual participants and the participant display selector is operable to select which of the actual participants will have a corresponding video image displayed.

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

15. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim [9] 17, further comprising:

- (a) at least one codec [for] configured to compress[ing] the mosaic image and the captured image of [the] fourth participant, and wherein the [means for combining a portion of the mosaic image] distributed mosaic generator can combine the compressed mosaic image and the compressed captured image of the fourth participant.

~~16. The teleconferencing system of claim 9, further comprising:~~

- ~~(a) an echo canceler to reduce echo during the reproduction of the audio sum.~~

17. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 9, further comprising:

- (a) a distributed mosaic generator in communication with the AV path[, for combining] and configured to receive and combine at least a portion of the mosaic image with a captured image of a fourth participant into a distributed mosaic image for reproduction at the workstation of at least one of the participants.

~~18. The teleconferencing system of claim 17, further comprising an echo canceler to reduce echo during the reproduction of the audio sum.~~

19. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim [17] 9, wherein the AV reproduction capabilities associated with at least the workstation of the first participant includes a plurality of speakers and further comprising:

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

(a) an audio control [for controlling the reproduction of] configured to control the audio sum at the first participant's workstation such that the composition of the audio originating from each of the second and third participants reproduced at each speaker is dependent on a position of the images of the [second and third participant in the reproduced mosaic image.

20. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim [9] 17, wherein the AV reproduction capabilities associated with at least the workstation of the first participant includes a plurality of speakers and further comprising:

C6
(a) an audio control [for controlling the reproduction of] configured to control the audio sum at the first participant's workstation such that the composition of the audio originating from each at least two of the second, [and] third and fourth participants reproduced at each speaker is dependent on a position of the images of the [second and third] participants in the reproduced mosaic image.

21. (Once Amended) A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) moving AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations;

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

- (b) combining the captured images of a first and a second participant into a mosaic image; [and]
- (c) [a distributed video mosaic generator, in communication with the AV path, for] transmitting and thereafter combining at least a portion of the mosaic image with a captured image of a third participant into a distributed mosaic image [for reproduction at at least one work station.]; and
- (d) reproducing the distributed mosaic image at the workstation of at least one participant.

~~22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:~~

- ~~(a) selecting one participant's image reproduced in the distributed mosaic image; and~~
- ~~(b) replacing the distributed mosaic image with the selected image.~~

23. (Once Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) combining the captured images of a plurality of participants into first and second mosaic images for reproduction at the workstations of at least one of the participants.

24. (Once Amended) A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the method comprising the steps of:

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

- (a) moving AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations;
- (b) combining the captured images of a first, second and third of the participants into a mosaic image for reproduction at the workstations of the first, second and third participants; [and]
- (c) receiving the captured audio of the first, second and third participants;
- (d) combining the received audio of only the second and third participants into an audio sum; and
- (e) reproducing the audio sum at the workstation of the first participant.

25. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting one participant's image reproduced in said mosaic image; and
- (b) replacing said mosaic image with the selected image.

26. (Once Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) combining the captured images of a plurality of participants into first and second mosaic images; and
- (b) synchronizing the mosaic images [generated by the video mosaic generators] such that a plurality of mosaic images can be reproduced at the workstations of at least one of the participants.

Preliminary Amendment

USSN 08/660,461

(once amended)

27. ^a The method of claim [26]24, further comprising the step of:

- (a) selecting which of the participants are to have their corresponding captured video image displayed in the mosaic image.

28. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) combining at least a portion of the mosaic image with a captured image of a fourth participant into a distributed mosaic image [for reproduction at the workstation of at least one of the participants]; and
- (b) reproducing the distributed mosaic image at the workstation of at least one of said participants.

29. (Once Amended) The method of claim [28] 24, wherein the AV reproduction capabilities associated with at least the workstation of the first participant includes a plurality of speakers, the method further comprising the steps of:

- (a) controlling the reproduction of the audio sum at the first participant's workstation such that the composition of the audio originating from each of the second and third participants reproduced at each speaker is dependent on a position of the images of the second and third participant in the reproduced mosaic image.